

PAC GENERAL MEETING
February 17th, 2010

Executive in Attendance: Nandita Narayan, Keith Chong, Shannon Derksen, Lynne Vidler, Ann Einstein

Regrets: Rhylin Bailie, Denise Hayhurst, Abby Wong, Jen Mezei, Zena Kwan

Parent speakers (Raising Confident Boys and Girls) 7pm to ~8:05pm
Meeting called to order at ~8:10 pm

- **Approval of November General Meeting minutes:** Lynne Vidler 1st, Kinder 2nd.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT – Nandita Narayan

Fundraising money allocation

- Parent and teacher survey was conducted to get feedback on what we should spend our funds on. Nandita handed out sheet listing some of the suggested areas to spend on.
- Now we need to decide what we should spend money on and how much to spend on each item. Question: these ideas are for the 2010 donations (answer: yes) and are there dollar estimates for these ideas (answer: for some yes, others no).
- Dollar figures aren't usually assigned, but a fraction can be assigned (e.g. a third to earthquake readiness, a third to sound systems, etc.)
- Question re: Carnival proceeds – are they split between different items? Answer: Yes
- Question: are there trouble areas, asks one parent, areas that could really use some extra funds? Answer: one such area maybe the lab computers – because our school is well-off in terms of existing IT, the district probably won't help us refresh our computers. Hardware upgrades are not funded by the District. There is a lot of the technology at Seaforth (e.g. laptop carts, net book carts, sound systems, etc.), it is all PAC-funded.
- Question: what is #2 on the suggestions list about – (#2 was the after school homework club)? Answer: Hiring a teacher to help kids with their homework. Homework clubs are rare; parents keep kids very busy with sports practices etc. But grades 4 to 7 may find it more difficult to do their homework at home as they are distracted. ESL families could benefit as trained tutors may be better able to help children with their homework. By providing a more formal setting, we could eliminate the distractions a child experiences at home. When at home, kids can concentrate on family activities. This club would not be mandatory, but danger is that it might become a babysitting club if we offer it for free. If a family registered their child for this program, the child must bring homework to work on, no playing. We could charge a nominal fee.
- Follow-up question: do other schools run homework clubs? Keith: no, but some teachers do run a homework club for their class (teachers that aren't sports coaches, concert organizers, etc.) At this school, teachers are very busy and no one has stepped forward. If parents see a need we can hire someone (rather than unpaid volunteers that may be inconsistent in their delivery). Don't know if we would get a lot of enrollment.
- Not a big response to the survey says Nandita – she asks audience to rate top three on the handout.

- Question/Comment re: homework club – do we envision the club containing 30 kids 3 times per week? If hire one tutor – max # kids would be 30 cause that's size of a classroom. But 10-15 may be more appropriate to ensure everyone benefits. Could limit the size of the club, or if we get a big response we could hire more than one tutor.
- Question re: cost of hiring tutor/teacher? \$20-30 dollars per hour is going rate for tutors. At two times a week, 1 to 1.5hrs each night (=pay 2hrs per night), that's \$60 per night, \$120 per week, \$480 per month or \$2400 for 20 weeks.
- Comment from audience: loves the idea of the homework club, especially for kids that need assistance – but our school is so strong academically – how are we going to help the kids that really need the help? The stronger kids will want to be a part of the club and others get missed. PAC funds are supposed to be for all kids – if we limit admission to only certain kids we will have concern from parents. Keith – we are not there yet. But we can discuss how we will screen.
- If we give homework program our vote, we may see the funds going to kids that don't need it as much as the other kids.
- Nandita: we can take this list and think about it, add to it, list bigger wider items that encompass all kids.
- Comment: easier to make a decision when we know how much money we will have. Will have to place orders for sound systems by end of June. June 11th is Carnival – so by the 3rd week in June we will have rough estimate of how much money will have to spend. But we should have rough idea of what will we spend money on before this time. Two teachers have definitely said they want the systems. **Motion forward to commit to the requested systems and the rest of the money can be spent elsewhere.** Certain amount of dollars will be taken off the top of carnival proceeds to sound systems.
- Question: What about earthquake container? – PAC has said they will allocate \$1500 dollars per year to replenish container. We have basic rations for survival already.
- Covered courtyard is another area we could spend the money on – big ticket item.
- Playground – are there plans to upgrade? Main portion of playground will need upgrading – Sway Bridge is key part – if this becomes unstable the whole thing will be ordered replaced. Very expensive: \$70,000 dollars is the estimated cost to replace. Playground should be on the list. Last major upgrade was funded by private donation. Provincial grants for playgrounds are available – we are not listed as an inner city schools and we don't qualify for these grants. We have to divert money from gaming to this. Educational partnerships program could help here.

Parent Speakers/Presentations

- Upcoming talks hosted by the Alfred Adler Institute – 1) Diffusing sibling rival, 2) How to talk to teens about sex, 3) Setting limits and knowing when to say no.
- Pamphlets provided at meeting, cheaper for group of 5 or more to go.
- PAC Speaker next month – Van City – teaching our kids the value of money.
- We have booked Drug awareness talk for May 5th — drug squad from the local Burnaby RCMP will present on this topic– open to District– Nandita will put details on website and in newsletter.

Upcoming Events

- March 26th movie night – stay tuned!

Popcorn Sales

- Stamp card option will now be available– children losing their dollar or spending on other things was the impetus for this.
- If parents want to have a card for their kids they can get one; however, cash is still an option. Questions: will children keep their cards or will we keep cards? Idea: run popcorn like hot lunch, create a master list of prepaid students, organize by division and we check off people as they come for their popcorn. **Adrienne will need help.** We can hang on to card for primary students. Idea: Buy 4 get one free – if lose, only lose 5 bucks.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Nandita Narayan for Abby Wong

- Not too much to report. Add your email address to the list being circulated if you want to receive this report.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT – Keith Chong

Spirit day

- About 30 sessions booked so far, need lots more. Keith hopes to have sessions printed off in handbook for students to select sessions at end of March/ beginning of April.
- Can pick sessions ahead of time (intermediates). Primaries have a common session for all kids at that grade level and then kids pick 2 other sessions.
- Would like to encourage parents to help out and/or present. Keith handed out a list of jobs he needs help with. SEE handout.
- Note that school/PAC will provide funds for materials and foods. Some jobs can be done at any time ahead of time – e.g. make signs. Other jobs are time sensitive. Email Keith if we have some availability and which job can do.
- Primary sessions are grouped because we don't have enough presenters. Need more primary speakers. Space is limiting as well. Splitting classrooms in half.

Emergency preparedness exercise

- May 7th – most people don't know what's in the container, so we will have everything in container set up.
- Bought three big tarps to act as overnight shelters. Burnaby fire fighters will come out and help set up tarps over the primary playground. Kids in afternoon will see what the shelter will look like.
- Medical centre, parent sign in centre, security centre, etc. Most of the kids will be on the upper field, will be in a secure area so that unauthorized people don't have access to kids. Sign out process in effect for kids.
- Kids will see what supplies look like. Classes will move through 6 or so different centers. Parents will have a chance to see the equipment we have purchased. This equipment is first tier quality and we could upgrade. We anticipate within 4 hours of a real emergency we would have half our kids picked up. Planning for about 200 people to be at school over night in the event of a real emergency.

VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR/MEMBER-AT-LARGE - Zena Kwan

- Nothing new to report.

CPF REPORT – Siva Ramesh

- Nothing new to report.

DPCP REPORT - Jen Mezei

- Nothing new to report.

HOT LUNCH COMMITTEE - Rishma Vallani

- Nothing new to report.

TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE - Donna Binotto & Fariborz Joulani

- Nothing new to report.

HEALTH & NUTRITION COMMITTEE - Adrienne Dall'Antonia

- Nothing new to report.

Meeting adjourned ~9:06 pm